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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,940	01/04/2002	Tatsuo Nomura	70904/56,872	7762
21874	7590	04/05/2006		
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205			EXAMINER GIBBS, HEATHER D	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/037,940	NOMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Heather D. Gibbs	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15, 17-21, 24-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 16, 22 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01/04/02 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on December 27, 2005 has been entered and made of record. Claims 1-25 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Pages 2-5, filed 12/27/05, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-19 under Venable (US 6,738,154) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Oashi et al (Col 13 Lines 43-56; Fig 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-11,15,19-21,24,25/21,25/24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venable (US 6,738,154) in view of Oashi et al (US 5,767,845).

Regarding claim 1, which is representative of claims 5,20 and 25, Venable teaches An image processing apparatus, comprising: an image processing section carrying processing of image data; and a plurality of user interface sections displaying

information regarding data and for entering commands image data. See Figs 1 and 10; Col 5 Lines 58-64; Col 12 Lines 40-64.

Venable does not disclose expressly wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to a command entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section(s) that said specific user interface section changes(s) its (their) display state(s).

Oashi discloses, in Col 13 Lines 43-56 and Fig 8, a multi-media device with a partial list showing a partial image on a screen image and display state information showing control information which describes a command to be executed according to an input signal, the control information including a display state change command instruction to change the display state of the partial image.

Venable & Oashi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, image processing apparatus.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Oashi with Venable by creating a display data of the screen image.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide a device in which read out of display data is not necessarily a part of the screen image.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Oashi with Venable to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1, 5,20.

For claim 2, which is representative of claims 6 and 24, Venable discloses The image processing apparatus as set forth claim 1, wherein: said plurality user interface

sections are arranged such that when the information regarding said processing of image data displayed said specific user interface section, said other user interface section(s) than the specific user interface section (are) in non-display state (Fig 10).

For claim 3, which is representative of claims 7 and 21, Venable teaches wherein said plurality user interface sections arranged such that information regarding contents of the command entered by said specific user interface section displays least one said other interface section(s). See Fig 10.

For claim 4, Venable teaches wherein sections number of said plurality of user interface is two. See Fig 1.

For claim 25/21, Venable discloses wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that input acceptance of said other user interface section(s) than the specific user interface section is validated in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section (Figs 1 and 10; Col 5 Lines 58-64; Col 12 Lines 40-64).

Regarding claim 25/24, Venable teaches wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section, input acceptance of said other user interface section(s) than the specific user interface section is validated and input acceptance of the specific user interface section is invalidated (Col 5 Lines 58-64; Col 12 Lines 40-64)

Considering claim 8, Venable discloses wherein in response to a command entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer unit changes its display state (Col 5 Lines 49-60).

Regarding claim 9, Venable discloses wherein when a command to execute a processing to be performed by said printer unit is entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer displays information regarding contents of the command (Col 5 Lines 49-64).

For claim 10, which is representative of claim 19, Venable teaches An image processing apparatus, comprising: an independently operable scanner unit 26 equipped with a display section and a display control section; an independently operable printer unit 34 equipped with a display section and a display control section, wherein said scanner unit and said printer unit are provided as separate members; and said scanner and said printer unit cooperatively control said display sections of said scanner unit and said printer unit such that: in an independent use of said printer display section of said printer unit set effective, and in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (Fig 1), said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only said display section of said scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and scanner unit (Fig 10; Col 12 Lines 40-49).

Considering claim 11, Venable teaches wherein said display section of said scanner unit is a large size display unit capable of displaying graphics (Fig 10).

Regarding claim 15, Venable discloses an input section for said display section of said scanner unit and an input section for said display section of said printer unit, wherein said display control section of said scanner unit permits an input operation by said input section of said scanner unit when said display section of said scanner unit is effective;

and said display control section of said printer unit permits an input operation by said input section of said printer unit when said display section of said printer unit is effective. See Fig 10.

5. Claims 13-14,17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venable '154 and Oashi '845 in view of Wood et al (US 6,453,127).

For claim 13, which is representative of claim 17, Venable and Oashi disclose the image-processing device as disclosed above.

Venable and Oashi do not disclose expressly wherein said predetermined condition is that information to be displayed in said printer unit is different from the information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit.

Wood discloses wherein said predetermined condition is that information to be displayed in said printer unit is different from the information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (Fig 1; Col 3 Line 66-Col 4 Line 7).

Venable, Oashi, & Wood are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor; image processing apparatus using user interfaces.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Venable and Oashi with Wood by utilizing the printer to provide separate information than the printer/scanner.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to include a display for the printer and one for the scanner and the printer.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wood with Venable to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

For claim 14, which is representative of claim 18, Wood teaches wherein said predetermined condition is that some failure has occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit to be used in combination with said printer, and said display control section controls said display section of said printer unit to display a state of the failure occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit (Col 3 Lines 66- Col 4 Line 7).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 16,22-23 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With respect to claim 16, allowable the examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches wherein said condition is that an input operation is performed by said input section of said printer unit, and said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit controls. Claim 22-23 are allowable the examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art found any motivation to combine any of the said prior art which teaches an input entering right allowing for acceptance of the operation input is transferred from the specific user interface to said other user interface section(s) than the specific user interface section.

Information Disclosure Statement

8. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A (1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the examiner on form PTO-892 has cited the references, they have not been considered. With regard to JP 8-297388/1996 which is not included on the IDS.

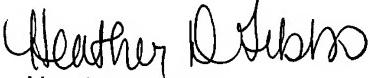
9. The information disclosure statement filed 01/04/2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather D. Gibbs whose telephone number is 571-272-7404. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thu 8AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Heather D Gibbs
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

hdg




Thomas D. Cee